

AMENDMENT

1. (Original) A method of inventory control comprising the steps of:

providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

- an RFID identification tag code field,
- a control value,
- an acceptable control value range, and
- an out of range action;

detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein detecting changes in inventory item attributes includes reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag associated with the inventory item;

recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range action.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of detecting changes, recording detected changes, comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';

detecting changes includes reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale;
and

recording detected changes comprises storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'utilization';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an inventory storage location; and

recording detected changes comprises incrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

recording detected changes comprises decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:

a control value unit field set to 'days', and
an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered
inventory;

detecting changes comprises:

reading from a clock the current date, and

calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current
date and the inventory date; and

recording detected changes comprises storing the age of the inventory item in the
control value.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein taking action comprises sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

11. (Currently Amended) A system of inventory control, ~~comprising the system~~
comprising a computer processor, a computer memory operatively coupled to the
computer processor, the computer memory having disposed within it computer
program instructions capable of:

~~means for~~ providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in
computer memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory
item, the inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID
identification tag code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

an RFID identification tag code field,
a control value,
an acceptable control value range, and
an out of range action;

~~means for~~ detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein ~~means for~~
computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in inventory item
attributes include ~~means for~~ computer program instructions capable of reading,
through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag
associated with the inventory item;

~~means for~~ recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

~~means for~~ comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range;
and

~~means for~~ taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the
out of range action.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the ~~means for computer~~
program instructions capable of detecting changes, means for computer program
instructions capable of recording detected changes, means for computer program
instructions capable of comparing the control value and the acceptable control
value range, and ~~means for computer program instructions capable of taking~~
action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service
bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to
'pounds';

~~means for computer program instructions capable of detecting changes includes~~
~~means for computer program instructions capable of reading the weight of the~~
inventory item from a scale; and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of recording detected changes~~
comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of storing the weight~~
of the inventory item in the control value.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to
'freshness';

~~means for computer program instructions capable of detecting changes in the~~
inventory attributes of the inventory item further comprises:

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ reading from a clock
the time when the inventory item is removed from a refrigerator,

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ reading the
temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ reading from the
clock the time when the inventory item is returned to the refrigerator, and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ calculating a
freshness coefficient in dependence upon the time when removed, the time
when returned, and the temperature; and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ recording detected changes
comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ storing the
freshness coefficient in the control value.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to
'utilization';

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ detecting changes in the
inventory attributes of the inventory item includes ~~means for computer program
instructions capable of~~ detecting that the inventory item has been removed from
and returned to an inventory storage location; and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ recording detected changes
comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ incrementing the

control value, wherein the control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'count';

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ detecting that one of the separate items has been removed from inventory; and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ recording detected changes comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ decrementing the control value, wherein the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:

a control value unit field set to 'days', and

an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered inventory;

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ detecting changes comprises:

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ reading from a clock the current date, and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current date and the inventory date; and

~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ recording detected changes comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ storing the age of the inventory item in the control value.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ taking action comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ taking action comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ taking action comprises ~~means for computer program instructions capable of~~ sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product of inventory control ~~comprising;~~ the computer program product embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program product comprising:

~~a recording medium;~~

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for
providing inventory item attributes comprising data elements in computer
memory, wherein the inventory item attributes describe an inventory item, the
inventory item has an RFID identification tag having an RFID identification tag
code, and the inventory item attributes comprise:

an RFID identification tag code field,
a control value,
an acceptable control value range, and
an out of range action;

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for
detecting changes in the inventory item attributes, wherein ~~means, recorded on the~~
~~recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for detecting changes in
inventory item attributes include ~~means for~~ computer program instructions for
reading, through an RFID reader, the RFID identification code from the RFID tag
associated with the inventory item;

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for
recording detected changes in inventory item attributes;

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for
comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range; and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for
taking action in dependence upon the result of the comparing and the out of range
action.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~ recording detected changes, ~~means for~~ computer program instructions for comparing the control value and the acceptable control value range, and ~~means for~~ computer program instructions for taking action are carried out through Java servlets in at least one OSGI-compliant service bundle installed and operating in an OSGI-compliant service gateway.
23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:
- the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'pounds';
- ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~ detecting changes includes ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for reading the weight of the inventory item from a scale; and
- ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~ recording detected changes comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for storing the weight of the inventory item in the control value.
24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:
- the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to 'freshness';

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item further
comprises:

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program~~
instructions for reading from a clock the time when the inventory item is
removed from a refrigerator,

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program~~
instructions for reading the temperature from a kitchen thermometer,

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program~~
instructions for reading from the clock the time when the inventory item is
returned to the refrigerator, and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program~~
instructions for calculating a freshness coefficient in dependence upon the
time when removed, the time when returned, and the temperature; and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
recording detected changes comprises means, recorded on the recording medium,
for storing the freshness coefficient in the control value.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to
'utilization';

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
detecting changes in the inventory attributes of the inventory item includes ~~means,~~

~~recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
detecting that the inventory item has been removed from and returned to an
inventory storage location; and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
recording detected changes comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium,~~
~~for computer program instructions for~~ incrementing the control value, wherein the
control value represents the number of times the inventory item has been utilized.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item comprises a quantity of separate items;

the inventory item attributes further comprise a control value unit field set to
'count';

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
detecting changes in the inventory attributes includes ~~means, recorded on the~~
~~recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~ detecting that one of the
separate items has been removed from inventory; and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for computer program instructions for~~
recording detected changes comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium,~~
~~for computer program instructions for~~ decrementing the control value, wherein
the control value represents the quantity of separate items.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the inventory item attributes further comprise:

a control value unit field set to 'days', and

an inventory date representing the date when the inventory item entered inventory;

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for detecting changes comprises:

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for reading from a clock the current date, and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for calculating the age of the inventory item in dependence upon the current date and the inventory date; and

~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for recording detected changes comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for storing the age of the inventory item in the control value.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for taking action comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for emailing an order to a vendor to reorder the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.
29. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for taking action comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for emailing a message to a user advising the user to discard the inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value range.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein ~~means,~~
~~recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer program instructions for taking
action comprises ~~means, recorded on the recording medium, for~~ computer
program instructions for sending, through HTTP and through a vendor service
gateway directly to a vendor's online order system, an HTML order for the
inventory item when the control value is outside the acceptable control value
range.